GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2105
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2008
BREAKDOWN OF POWER PLANTS
Bhagora Shri Mahavir

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been frequent break-down in the power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and current year, plant-wise;

(c) whether an estimate of the losses so incurred has been made in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof, plant-wise; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (c) : The performance of a generating unit depends on a number of factors such as vintage of the unit, timely planned maintenance, availability of required quality and quantity of fuel in respect of thermal and nuclear units and availability of water in respect of hydro units. Over the years, there has been considerable improvement in the operational performance of the generating units in the country due to improved design features, better diagnostic facilities and maintenance practices. The utilization of installed capacity of thermal and nuclear units expressed in terms of plant load factor, has shown considerable improvement over the years but mainly for fuel shortage in case of nuclear units. The operating availability of hydro machines has also been consistently high. However, breakdowns (forced outage) take place in certain units due to their age and other unforeseen incidents / events. The loss due to forced outage is worked out in term of energy loss (Million Units). The details of plant-wise forced outages and the estimated loss of generation in respect of thermal plants which suffered frequent break-down (36 times or more per year i.e. three times in a month) during the last three years (2005-06 to 2007-08) and current year (2008-09) is enclosed at Annex. There has been no case of frequent break down in hydro and nuclear plants during the last three years.

(d) & (e) : Besides periodic plant maintenance, renovation and modernization (R&M) and life extension (LE) of old and inefficient generating units as part of R&M and LE programme are carried out with a view to minimize forced outages of generating plants.